

Indo-Oman Joint Venture Fertilizer Project

2184. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report "Reinventing a big bad deal" published in the Outlook Magazine dated 10th July, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the Indo-Oman Joint Venture Fertilizer Project; if so, the details thereof, including its terms and conditions and by when it is likely to be established.

(c) whether the buy-back arrangement conceived by the project would be in keeping with the objective of the draft fertilizer policy to completely deregulate the Ammonia prices by 2006-07; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the current decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have approved investment of IFFCO and KRIBHCO in the revised and restructured Oman India Fertilizer Project. The approval is however, subject to early resolution of certain outstanding issues. The salient features of the revised and restructured project are as under:—

— Capital Cost	: US\$ 969 million
— Debt-Equity Ratio	: 67:33
— Debt	: US\$ 649 million
— Equity (IFFCO & KIRBHCO)	: US\$ 160 million
— Equity (Oman Oil Company)	: US\$ 160 million

Government of India will purchase urea up to 16.52 LMT per

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RAJYA SABHA

annum under a direct urea off-take agreement at fixed long term prices.

As per the Government's approval, the commercial production would start 35 months after the financial close of the project.

(c) and (d) The clearance of the project was for a number of reasons, including an assured supply of urea at a fixed price based on low cost preferred feedstock (natural gas) for a long term of 15 years. Further, the draft fertilizer policy envisages setting up of joint ventures in countries where natural gas is available in plenty. This project which was conceived in 1994, and forms a part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Sultanate of Oman and the Government of India is in keeping with the objectives of the draft fertilizer policy.

Illegal Construction at Parasnath Hills, Bihar

2185. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal construction has been done at Parasnath Hills in Giridih District of Bihar;

(b) whether the Forest Conservation Act has been violated by some institution and illegal construction is going on;

(c) whether the Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 and Forest Conservation Act, 1980, prohibit cutting down of trees and allow construction of a building complex and dharamshala and a place of worship at Parasnath Hills; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to stop such illegal construction and to book the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 prohibits the State Government or other authorities in making an order without the